

Rebecca W. Watson

Rebecca W. Watson is the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the U.S. Department of the Interior. She provides policy, priorities and oversight to the Bureau of Land Management, Minerals Management Service, and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. These three bureaus have responsibility for the production of about 35 percent of our domestic oil, natural gas and coal that heat and cool our homes, fuel our cars and trucks, and power our high-tech economy. The Bureau of Land Management also manages about one-eighth of the land in the United States for a wide variety of uses benefiting the public including recreation, grazing, timber production, mining, wilderness, energy development and wildlife habitat. During her tenure as Assistant Secretary, Ms. Watson has established providing the American people with the energy they need in an environmentally sound manner and the preservation of rural western communities and their values as her highest priorities. She has been an active spokesperson for administration initiatives to involve local communities in public-land decisions affecting them and protecting communities from the threat of wildland fires.

Ms. Watson is an attorney licensed to practice in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and Washington, D.C. She is admitted to the State and Federal district courts of those states, the 9th, 10th and D.C. Circuit Courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. She received her undergraduate degree, *magna cum laude*, and two graduate degrees from the University of Denver. Ms. Watson is a published author on natural resource law and policy issues.